

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P R 190655Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8686

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 5462

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SA, YE

SUBJ: SAG OFFER TO PURCHASE ARMS FOR YAR

REF : (A) JIDDA 5143; (B) STATE 199146; (C) SANAA 1909

1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN SENDING DOD SURVEY TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA PRIOR TO ITS GOING TO YAR. RAMADAN PRESENTS SOME PROBLEMS OF ACCESS TO SAUDI OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, WE CAN COPE. IT MORE IMPORTANT THAT TEAM ABLE TO FUNCTION IN YAR AND FROM REF C IT APPEARS THIS NO PROBLEM.

2. ALSO CONCUR IN SUGGESTION REF C THAT DOL. FIFER BE INCLUDED IN TEAM IF HE CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE.

3. AS FOR MEANS OF YAR ACQUISITION (PARA 6 REF B), OPTION A, FMS CASES CONSUMATED BY YAR WITH FINANCES PROVIDED BY SAG (THE PATTERN OF FMS SALES TO JORDAN), IS ACCEPTABLE TO US BUT SEEMS NEEDLESSLY INDIRECT. OUR PREFERENCE IS OPTION B WITH DIRECT SHIPMENT TO YAR. WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT OPTION C--SHIPMENT OF MATERIEL FROM EXIST-

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ING INVENTORIES IN SAUDI ARABIA. SAG IS NOT CERTAIN TO

PASS ON EQUIPMENT IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION. EVEN IF IT WERE IN GOOD CONDITION, YEMENIS MIGHT VIEW IT WITH SUSPICION.

4. EMBASSY THINKS IT WOULD BE GOOD IF A USMTM REPRESENTATIVE WERE TO ACCOMPANY DOD TEAM TO YEMEN.

5. RE PARA 3 REF C, WE UREG MAXIMUM RESPONSIVENESS TO YEMENI REQUESTS. AS REFTEL INDICATES, WASHINGTON CONSIDERING REQUESTS FROM OTHER PARTIES AS WELL (ETHIOPIA, MOROCCO, ETC). BUT AFTER PRESSING SULTAN FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO BE MORE HELPFUL TO YARG, IT WOULD BE A PITY -- NOW THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO ACT -- TO TELL HIM THAT COMPETITION AND LONG LEAD TIMES PRECLUDE AN EARLY US RESPONSE.

6. USMTM CONCURS WITH FOREGOING.
AKINS

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